

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of January 16, 2004.

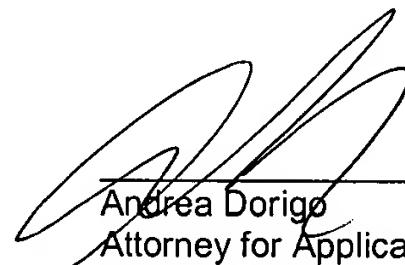
Following the submission of Applicant's amendment on December 18, 2003, in response to the Official Action of October 21, 2003, a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was mailed that stated that the cancelled claims "do not need text." It is respectfully submitted that the listing of the recitations in the cancelled claims was merely for the Examiner's benefit. However, for the sake of expediting prosecution, Applicants submit the instant amendment to conform with the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. The instant amendment differs from the amendment filed on December 18, 2003 only in that the cancelled claims have been denoted as "cancelled" without the inclusion of any text. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendment does not introduce new matter, but is merely formal in nature.

Applicants respectfully submit that the enclosures listed on the first page of the amendment submitted on December 18, 2003, including a Request for Continued Examination, a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 132 including accompanying data, and an Information Disclosure Statement including accompanying references, were submitted together with the amendment and therefore do not have to be re-submitted.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, examination and allowance of Claim 1, pending in the application, is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-1445.

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